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UFO CRASH REPORTED BY PROBER

By MATT CARROLL

RAY FOWLER isn't sure why UFOs keep zipping in from the great beyond to check out the latest Earth fads, but it might just be simple curiosity.

"They just might be wondering about us," Ray Fowler says.

Fowler, 50, is not a red-neck yahoo mouthing gibberish about green monsters from Mars ready to waste Tokyo with death rays.

He's an intense, quiet man, a senior planner for GTE Sylvania in Billerica, who has worked on the MX missile system. But his passion is UFOs — Unidentified Flying Objects. He's written four books and given many lectures on the subject.

For him, it's not a question of whether they exist. He knows they exist and wants to prove it.

So what do these jokers want, anyway?

"Maybe they're trying to figure out what makes life tick here, if they evolved differently," he says.

"There's been a number of highly reliable accounts of people reliving under hypnosis these reported or alleged abductions.

"Maybe they're monitoring us from a distance, like we study rabbits or bears. People tend to think it couldn't happen to us, but . . ."

The Wenham father of four is the national director of investigations for the Mutual UFO Network, an Illinois-based group that probes UFO phenomena.

They'd like to probe some UFO wreckage or maybe some UFO bodies, but they've never been able to lay their hands on any. But Fowler thinks he knows who has:

The U.S. government.

Fowler claims he has talked to a man with top security clearance, now working at Sylvania, who was involved in a bizarre incident more than 20 years ago involving a crashed flying saucer and, possibly, dead aliens.

The tale begins in May 1953, while the man is working as a civilian for the Air Force at Frenchman Flats, Nev. His boss tells the man, who is a specialist in assessing damage to crashed aircraft, to report for an assignment he is not supposed to write or talk about.

"After a plane ride to Phoenix," Fowler says, "he's loaded on a bus with blacked-out windows with a handful of other scientists. They're told they're part of a team investigating the crash of a super-secret aircraft.

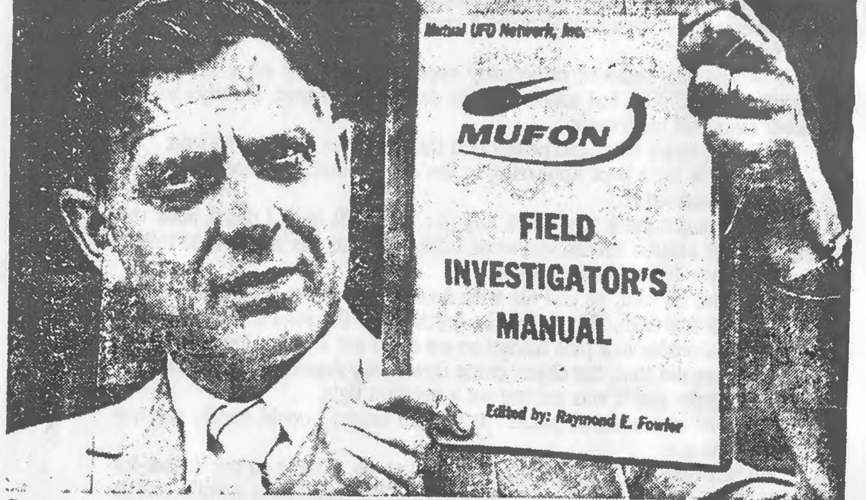
"After a bus ride that lasts hours, they arrive at an area brilliantly lit by searchlights. There, partially buried in the ground, is what looks like two 30-foot cereal bowls inverted on one other, with a rim around the edge.

"Wires connected to the lights lead down through a hatch in the machine. Nearby, in a small tent, he thought he saw small silver-clad outfits."

After his investigation, all his notes were whisked away, and that was the last he saw them. He never heard anything else about the "saucer."

Fowler has battled to pry details of the incident from the government using the Freedom of Information Act. He hasn't had much luck.

One judge shrugged off his attempt after getting a brief from the Justice Department. Fowler got the brief under the FOI act — but it was mostly blacked out for security reasons "except for the 'ifs,' 'ands' and 'buts,' " Fowler said with a laugh.



Raymond Fowler, director of investigations for Mutual UFO Network, has written four books on subject.

Staff photo by William Polo